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ABSTRACT

The premature rupture of amniotic fluid (PROM) may be discovered through a number of inventive means. Methods of evaluating whether PROM is present include; a) through the testing of the pH of vaginal fluids using an irreversible pH test; b) through the detection of analytes (e.g. enzymes) specific to amniotic fluid in the vaginal fluids; c) through the detection of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) in the vaginal fluid; and d) through the detection of cholesterol in vaginal fluid. While individually indicative of PROM, it is desirable to combine at least two of these techniques to yield a powerful tool of even greater reliability. Test devices and feminine hygiene pads into which the test methods may be incorporated are also included herein.